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SOURCE
Wen-hui Pao.NORTHEAST TO BECOME IRON, STEEL CENTER

FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED FOR EXPANSION -- Wen-hui Pao, 4 Jan 50

Pei-p'ing, 2 January, (NCNA) -- The Ministry of Heavy Industries of the Central People's government called a convention of experts and responsible personnel from all regional administrative districts, including the Northeast, on 16 December. At this meeting, it was decided to make the Northeast the key area for the production of iron and steel. Greater allocation of capital investments will be made for the Northeast to expand industrial installations.

The meeting discussed various technical problems, including those involving the proper production ratio to be maintained in producing various types of iron and steel, such as pig iron, rolled steel, etc.

There is a marked lack of technicians in the iron and steel industry throughout China, especially in the Northeast. Only 0.71 percent of China's iron and steel workers could be classed as skilled workmen. For these reasons, the convention decided to draw top-grade technicians from other sectors of China and transfer them immediately to the Northeast.

It also determined that a system of distributing trained college graduates in the field of heavy industry would have to be worked out. In the training of personnel, it seemed logical that the area in which these technicians operate should assume the main responsibility for their education; Training programs and night schools will be established by every enterprise to increase the technical knowledge of workers and foremen.

Important questions involving wages and benefits, supply, organization, and distribution faced the convention. All problems were tackled with a great deal of enthusiasm, as well as a firm determination to ferret out workable solutions to raise China's heavy industry program to the level it should enjoy.

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STEEL MILL RECOVERY INCOMPLETE -- Wen-hui Pao, 5 Jan 50

At present, only Furnace No 1 of the Shih-ching-shan Iron and Steel Works near Pei-p'ing is in operation. No steel is being produced due to the shortage of raw materials, but each day 200 tons of coke, 150 tons of cast iron, and 40 tons of iron piping are turned out. Furnace No 1 is fired every 4 hours and yields 30 tons of iron for each firing. Fifty coke furnaces complete the coking process every 30 hours.

The coal used to produce Shih-ching-shan coke comes from the K'ai-luan mines. The iron ore used in the refining process must be transported from the Hsuan-hua mines, 170 kilometers away.

Of the 4,000 workers, 2,000 have joined the local union.

Furnace No 2 was destroyed by the Nationalists when they retreated, placing a tremendous job of reconstruction and repair on the hands of the new management.

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